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# State Water Resources Control Board

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**Gray Davis**  
Governor

## NOTICE OF WORKSHOPS

### **NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM DRAFT GENERAL PERMIT FOR DISCHARGES OF STORM WATER FROM SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (SMALL MS4)**

#### SUBJECT OF WORKSHOPS

The workshops will address the proposed draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. You may download a copy of the permit at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/index.html> or request a hard copy by calling (916) 341-5539.

#### BACKGROUND

In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) promulgated regulations for permitting storm water discharges from industrial sites and from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) serving a population of 100,000 people or more. These regulations, known as the Phase I regulations, require operators of medium and large MS4s to obtain storm water permits.

On December 8, 1999, USEPA promulgated regulations, known as Phase II, requiring permits for storm water discharges from regulated Small MS4s (i.e., those not covered under Phase I). Small MS4s include those operated by cities and counties and facilities owned by state and federal agencies.

Federal regulations allow two permitting options for storm water discharges (individual permits and General Permits). SWRCB is proposing to adopt one statewide general permit for all Small MS4s.

#### WORKSHOP ISSUES

A statewide Small MS4 general permit would be applicable to a variety of MS4s—from those serving cities of over 90,000 people to small state-owned recreational facilities. Because of this, the adopted General Permit must be flexible but also must be an effective tool for regulating storm water discharges. The purpose of the workshops is to receive comments on the approach of having a single statewide Small MS4 permit and the specific provisions of the draft General Permit.

Specific issues about which SWRCB especially seeks comments are receiving water limitations, post-construction requirements, and the criteria for including facilities operated by state and federal agencies.

- The proposed language in this draft General Permit includes an iterative approach for attaining compliance with receiving water limitations, which is currently applicable to Phase I municipalities. Currently, SWRCB is reviewing this receiving water language in a water quality petition concerning Los Angeles County and



cities. Depending on the SWRCB's decision, revisions may be made to the receiving water limitations language proposed in this draft permit.

- Federal regulations require the regulated Small MS4 to develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in post-construction runoff to its MS4 from new or redevelopment projects that result in a land disturbance of one or more acres. However, there are differences in how much development and redevelopment will occur in the regulated Small MS4s. In some cases, such as an MS4 with a very small public works department or a community that is essentially built out with little planned development or redevelopment, a rigorous post-construction program may not be practical nor produce the results that justify the effort of the program. For this reason, the draft permit provides an example of a prescriptive post-construction program; however, the provisions allow Small MS4s the flexibility to propose a program that is more appropriate for their site conditions.
- Certain Small MS4s operated by governmental entities besides cities and counties must be subject to this permit. SWRCB does have discretion in deciding which facilities must be permitted. This draft General Permit establishes criteria for inclusion based on the size of the facility and the number of persons who use the facilities.

#### DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS

The workshops will be held at the following locations and dates:

**August 6, 2002 – 11 a.m.**

Fresno Education Department  
Auditorium, 2nd Floor  
Tulare & M Streets  
Fresno, California 93721

**August 8, 2002 – 11 a.m.**

City Council Chambers  
777 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001

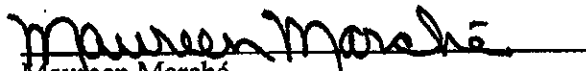
**August 13, 2002 – 10 a.m.**

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

#### COMMENTS, REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

Submittal of comments and evidence regarding the draft Small MS4 permit should be addressed to Ms. Jarma Bennett, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 1977, Sacramento, California, 95812-1977. Comments and evidence may also be submitted by FAX to 916/341-5543.

Questions regarding the workshops should be directed to the Municipal Storm Water Unit at 916/341-5539.

  
Maureen Marché  
Clerk to the Board

Date: July 12, 2002

